

STORY 95.

HOW AHAMD SHAH ABDALI WAS REBUKED.

AHMAD SHAH ABDALI the Hammer of the Marahattas made several raids into the Punjab and in 1761 smashed the power of those marauders.

Once he had to celebrate his I'd at Lahore, and went to the Mosque of Wazir Khan to say his I'd prayers.

In the course of sermon the Imam called Ahmad Shah a just ruler. A well known scholar of those days named Shahr Yar too had come to this Mosque to join in the I'd prayers he was at a distance from the Imam he did not hear what he had said about Abdali. Some one went to him and told him that the Imam had called Abdali a just ruler, simply to flatter him in spite of the fact that the city was being subjected to all sorts of indignities, and the people were crying against his tyranny and oppression.

Hearing this Shahr Yar approached the Imam. Abdali who was sitting near by showed him respect by kissing his feet. But Shahr Yar forbade him to do this as this practice was not permitted by Islam.

Then he upbraided the Imam for flattering Abdali saying "You know full well how the soldiers of Abdali are treating the people of the city, how the matter has been brought to his notice not

once, nor twice but many times, and how he has turned a deaf ear to the cries of the downtrodden people. Our sacred religion does not allow us to call such a king just."

This plain speaking displeased Abdali and as a penalty he ordered Shahr Yar to leave Lahore.